

# The Nativity

Story to accompany Hungerford High Street Nativity Trail 2020



With thanks to the children and staff of Hungerford Primary School and the shops on Hungerford High St for their wonderful window displays.



## Nativity Trail 2020

Have fun looking for your friends as they tell the Nativity story

<https://www.stlawrenceshungerford.org.uk/>

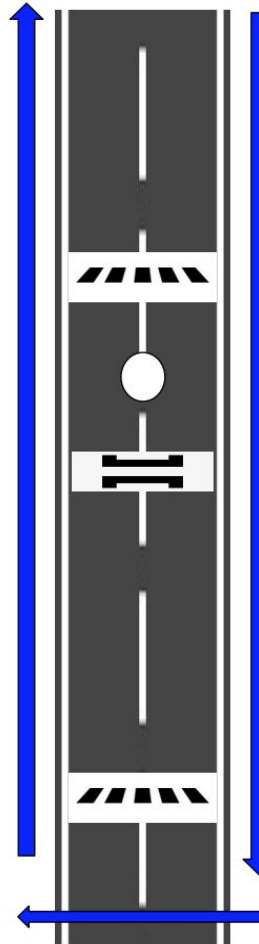
COSTA COFFEE: Traditional full Nativity

MARTIN AND THE MAGPIE FLORIST: Gold

PARSONS BAKERY: Myrrh

INKLINGS: Frankincense

BOOTS: The Wise Men arrive at the stable



### KITCHENMONGERS:

- The Angel Gabriel travels to Galilee
- Annunciation

### VISION EXPRESS:

- Journey to Bethlehem
- No room at the inn
- Waiting for Jesus to be born

NATIONWIDE: Birth Announcement

VISIT THE CHURCH: Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Angel, Star

CHURCH BOARD: Nativity Scene

HUNGERFORD GOURMET ORIENTAL CHINESE FOOD TAKEAWAY- Jesus in the manger

COOP: Shepherds in the fields with a choir of angels

CHRISTIAN ALBA'S BUTCHERS: Shepherds visit the stable

W H SMITH: The Wise Men follow the star

# The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

An angel is a special messenger that comes from God in heaven to deliver messages to people that God has chosen.

The Christmas story begins with Angel Gabriel who has a very important message to give to Mary, a poor young woman from Nazareth who is engaged to be married to Joseph.



# The Angel Gabriel Brings Good News

One day the Angel Gabriel arrived to visit Mary. He had a message to share. He said, “Do not be afraid. God has chosen you. You are going to have a baby and call him Jesus. He is God’s son and his name means ‘God Saves’. He will be more important than anyone who has ever lived.”

Mary was confused but trusted in God so she said, “Yes! I’ll do as God plans.” She was happy and looked forward to the birth of baby Jesus. She thanked God for choosing her to be the mother of this very special baby.



# Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem

*The donkey plods on, plods on, plods on. Gently swaying and softly saying "To Bethlehem".* Revd R G Smith

The Roman Governor wanted to know how many people lived in Judea so he ordered everybody to return to their family homes to be counted.

Mary and Joseph set out on the long journey to Bethlehem. They knew it would take at least 4 days.

Sometimes Mary rode on a donkey as she was too exhausted to walk. Joseph walked beside her and took care of her. He must have had very sore feet!



# No room at the inn

*The innkeepers say, “No room, no room! No use knocking,  
there is no lodging in Bethlehem!”* Revd R G Smith



When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, the town was heaving! All of the hotels and bed and breakfasts were full because everyone who was from Bethlehem had to return at the same time.

Mary and Joseph were desperate for somewhere to rest. The baby was due to be born at any minute.

# An empty stable with and empty manger

*To find a stable, just a stable, with a manger and safe from danger in Bethlehem. They knock once more on a stable door and find in the hay a place to stay in Bethlehem.* Revd R G Smith



A kind innkeeper sees that Mary and Joseph need help and offers them an empty stable. They settle down to sleep amongst the animals and wait with anticipation for Jesus to be born.



# Good News!

Jesus, God with us, our friend and Saviour is born

*With cattle and sheep, Jesus asleep, in a stable, manger for cradle, in Bethlehem.*

Revd R G Smith





# The Shepherds hear the Good News

*“Hark!” The Herald Angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

It was nighttime and the Shepherds were in the fields looking after their sheep. Suddenly the sky lit up and the shepherds were really frightened. They had not seen anything like this before. The angel told the shepherds not to be afraid because he had a message of good news and happiness for them and everybody in the world. The good news was that Jesus, the son of God was born and they should go and visit him in the stable. Suddenly, many angels appeared, singing songs of joy and peace for our world.

After the angels had gone, the shepherds left immediately to go to Bethlehem and see the newborn baby for themselves.



# The Shepherds visit the stable

*O didn't you hear, O didn't you hear the noise the angels made? The shepherds came to Bethlehem to see the Holy Babe.*

Revd R G Smith

The shepherds and their sheep arrived at the stable.

They were excited and could feel how momentous the moment was. They were pleased to be amongst the first to greet the special baby. The shepherds shared the angel's message with Mary and Joseph: Joyful news! Jesus, Saviour of the world is born!

Mary stored up memories of all these amazing words and she would think of them frequently as Jesus grew up.

The shepherds returned to the fields, singing thanks to God because they knew that what the angel had told them was true.



# The Wise Men see the star

*Oh, star of wonder, star of night. Star with royal beauty bright. Westward leading, still proceeding. Guide us to thy perfect light.*

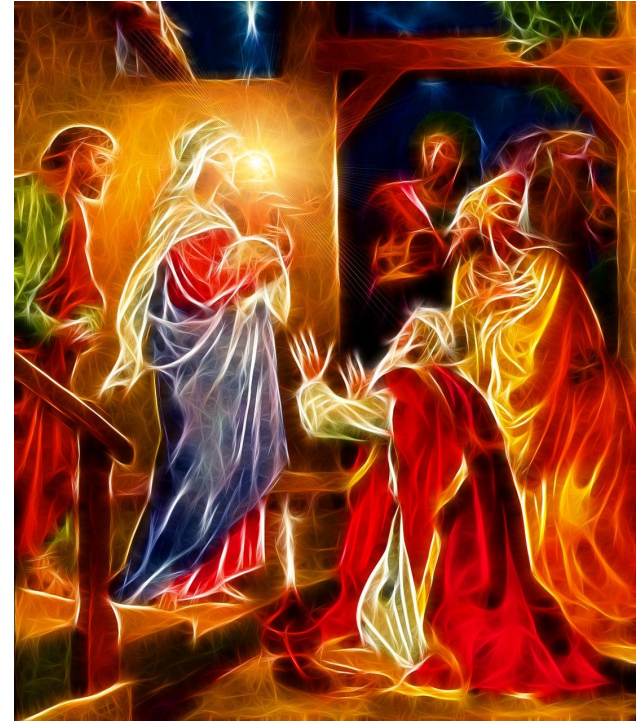


The Wise Men saw a new star rising in the East. They remembered all of their studying and learning and knew that this star was of great significance. It would guide them to the birthplace of Jesus, the King of the Jews. They decided to follow the star!

# The Three Wise Men arrive at the stable- Epiphany

*And when the kings saw the star, they went and followed it there. And into a stable they did go, to see Christ Jesus there.* K E Smith

The Wise Men followed the star all the way to Bethlehem, until it stopped over the stable where Jesus and his family were staying. The Wise Men were filled with joy because they knew their journey had ended. They went into the stable and knelt down in front of Jesus. They gave him the presents they had carried with them and promised to love and worship him all their lives.



# The Gifts

*And when the Kings saw  
Jesus, they offered him gifts  
most rare.* K E Smith

Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar were the names of the three wise men. They had travelled with their camels on a very long journey indeed to meet Jesus. They thought long and hard about what presents to give him and had been shopping before they set off on their trip. They came up with some very unusual ideas!

Caspar gave Jesus gold to show how important and kingly he was going to be. Melchior presented Jesus with the beautiful smelling Frankincense to show his special connection with God, his father. Balthazar brought Myrrh a fragrant tree resin to symbolise that Jesus was born human and would not live forever.



# Why is the Nativity so important?

In the last window we can see all of the characters we have met on our journey around the High Street. Picture yourself here with Mary and Joseph, the Wise Men [also called the Kings or Magi], the shepherds and not forgetting the animals! Imagine the noises and the smells. Think of the joy of the shepherds, so poor they were hardly given a second thought and yet this time they were chosen to be first to hear the announcement of Jesus' birth. Consider the wealthy Wise Men who were not used to kneeling down to anyone but who had studied the predictions written seven hundred years before announcing the arrival of Jesus as King. Imagine all of the light given off by that crowd of angels and the noise of all of that heavenly music. How might you feel? Confused? Happy? Excited? Most importantly think of Jesus, born as a helpless baby who thought and felt like we do but stayed true to God his father and fulfilled his great plan for us. Jesus' birth is the beginning of the wonderful story that unfolds over his lifetime. Remember him this Christmas as it is his birthday we are celebrating.



We would love to see you at St Lawrence's over Christmas.

Due to Covid-19 you will need to book a free ticket. Please visit the website for more information.

Crib Service- Christmas Eve 4pm & 5pm

Jesus' birthday Communion-  
Christmas Day 10am

★ Sunday School information:

<https://www.stlawrenceshungerford.org.uk/children-and-youth/sunday-school>

★ Christmas Church Services:

<https://www.stlawrenceshungerford.org.uk/whats-on/calendar?id=500>

★ BBC Nativity animation

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/presenters-nativity-story>

★ Bible Society- It Begins In Bethlehem a rhyme for Christmas Time

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D06k9vulAVQ&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D06k9vulAVQ&feature=emb_logo)

★ Mess- A spoken word film for Christmas

<https://spoken-truth.com/mess/>

★ Wayside Nativity 2020- the story behind a homemade nativity scene

<https://cumnor.org/wayside-nativity/>





to all the shops and businesses that have made our Nativity trail possible. Please support our High Street this Christmas.

★ Costa Coffee

★ Boots

★ Christian Alba's Traditional Butchers

★ Inklings

★ Parsons Bakery

★ The Kitchenmonger

★ Vision Express

★ Nationwide Building Society

★ W H Smiths

★ Hungerford Gourmet Oriental Chinese Food Takeaway

★ Martin and the Magpie Florist

★ COOP

*Merry  
Christmas*